

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 120820Z JUL 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3402

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 2106

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SA, BEXP

SUBJECT: CALL ON SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR FUAD NAZIR

1. SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR NAZIR TOLD ME ON JULY 11 THAT EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF PETROLEUM WOULD VISIT SAUDI ARABIA DURING THE COMING WEEK TO DISCUSS MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE SUMED PIPELINE. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT MIGHT JOIN WITH THE KUWAITIS IN FINANCING THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS (CAIRO 2092), PRESUMABLY FOR A SHARE OF THE EQUITY.

2. AMBASSADOR NAZIR ALSO SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD RECENTLY GUARANTEED REPAYMENT OF \$25 MILLION IN CREDITS FOR FOOD IMPORTS TO EGYPT IN ADDITION TO A GIFT OF 750,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL. HE ALSO MENTIONED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HELICOPTERS FOR THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THE AMOUNTS. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BASED ON AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SAUDI SUPPORT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN ADVANCE AGAINST FUTURE KHARTOUM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS. HE ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS DOUBTFUL THAT THE ADVANCES WOULD IN FACT EVER BE DEDUCTED FROM FUTURE PAYMENTS.

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3. NAZIR EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT HAFEZ ISMAIL DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP TO MOSCOW COULD DEMAND AN ACCOUNTING FROM THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE RUSSIAN FAILURE TO PROVIDE MORE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT. IF ISMAIL RECEIVED NO SATISFACTION FROM THE RUSSIANS, NAZIR THOUGHT THAT SADAT MIGHT DECIDE TO RENOUNCE THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY, PERHAPS IN HIS JULY 23 SPEECH ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION.

4. ON THE PROPOSED UNITY WITH LIBYA, NAZIR WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THERE MAY BE NO UNITY ANNOUNCEMENT AT ALL BY SEPTEMBER 1, SINCE SADAT AND QADHAAFI HAD FAILED TO REACH A MEETING OF THE MINDS DURING QADHAAFI'S TRIP TO EGYPT. ACCORDING TO NAZIR, QADHAAFI REMAINED ADAMANT TO THE END AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE EGYPTIAN ARGUMENTS THAT A SOUND UNION COULD ONLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT ON A STEP BY STEP BASIS WITH PROPER ADVANCE PLANNING.
WILEY

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